

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original) A device for preventing spray from emerging from the wheels of vehicles comprising a panel that is adapted to be mounted substantially vertically behind a vehicle wheel for receiving on a first side water released by the wheel as it rotates, the panel including at least one passage which leads from the first side to a rear second side of the panel, the or each passage being other than normal to the plane of the panel, and at least one water-collecting pocket along the side of the or each passage, wherein, in use, air and water entering the or each passage are separated so that air passes through the or each passage and mixes with ambient air on a second side of the panel, and water collects in the or each water-collecting pocket.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A The device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the panel is formed from a plurality of vertical baffles in a side by side relationship with passages therebetween.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A The device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the baffles are substantially identical in shape.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A The device as claimed in Claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein the baffles overlap one another.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A The device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the panel is substantially planar.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A The device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the or each passage is non-linear.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A The device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the water-collecting pockets are arranged so as to collect water following a change of direction in the or each passage.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A The device as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the or each passage has two changes of direction.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A The device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the or each pocket is a channel running substantially vertically along its respective baffle, so that, in use, water drains from the baffles onto a surface on which the wheel is travelling.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A The device as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the channel is substantially U-shaped.

Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (New): The device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the baffles overlap one another.